

## House Resolution No.

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those individuals who have helped Show-Me State residents develop close ties to long-lost family members despite the obstacles imposed by geographic distance and the passage of considerable amounts of time; and

**Whereas**, Jason Schantz and his beloved wife, Rebecca, recently traced the history of the Schantz family from the life of James Jakob Schantz who was Head Forest Ranger of Fuerstenhagen in the German Federal State of Hessen, a genealogical search which ultimately brought them to the contemporary descendants of his son Christian Schantz, Helmut and Jutta Stange of Hamburg, Germany; and

**Whereas**, other sons of James Jakob Schantz included George and Karl Schantz who immigrated to Missouri in the year 1846 and whose descendants helped populate, build, and protect the new state of Missouri during the time of westward expansion of the United States and participated in the evolution of the Deutsche Evangelische Kirche to the Evangelical and Reformed Church and into the present United Church of Christ; and

**Whereas**, Helmut and Jutta Stange were joined by pastor Gert Merkel of the Evangelische Church in Fuerstenhagen to ensure that a trip by Jason and Rebecca Schantz to Germany proved to be fruitful, educational, and rewarding; and

**Whereas**, during the year 2004 the descendants of James Jakob Schantz will meet in Fuerstenhagen to renew their shared heritage and to participate in the Christian baptism of Jason and Rebecca Schantz's son, Helmut Johann Robert Schantz, by Gert Merkel in his spiritual role as current pastor of the Evangelische Church in Fuerstenhagen:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to commend the steadfast efforts of pastor Gert Merkel on behalf of Jason and Rebecca Schantz and their distant relatives in Germany as the Schantz and Stange families reunite in historic Fuerstenhagen for the baptism of Helmut Johann Robert Schantz; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation to pastor Gert Merkel of the Evangelische Church of Fuerstenhagen, Germany.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Rod Jetton  
Speaker Pro Tem  
District No. 156

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. \_\_\_\_, adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker